

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and honorable members of the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee thank you for allowing me to offer my testimony to SB1.

My name is Wyatt, and I am a resident of Carroll, Ohio. As a constituent and a student at The Ohio State University (OSU), I am deeply concerned about SB1. I urge you, please vote no on SB1.

My principal concerns are that the bill is going to do irreversible damage to our state's reputation and economy. My grievances with SB1 can be summed up in three points:

1.) The consensus on our campus is that SB1 will drive out students and faculty who contribute to Ohio's economy. Ohio's public universities bring in over ONE BILLION dollars in research grants that support jobs, innovations and business development. SB1 will be accompanied by a tremendous loss of money. For example, if only 5% of faculty leave OSU or are forced to resign, and that results in a 5% decrease in research money coming in, then there will be a loss of \$72 MILLION for our state. The federal pause on NIH funding will already hit us for about 50 MILLION dollars alone. We are talking about OVER 100 MILLION DOLLARS of research grants LOST for the state of Ohio. These losses will directly impact Ohio-based industries that rely on university-led research, including healthcare, technology, and agriculture. Who benefits when Ohio turns away this funding?

2.) The bill is going to reduce the quality of undergraduate education; in the future, students will not want to come to OSU or Ohio for education, and prospective students will be driven away. We will have a net export of students. Students contribute to Ohio's economy by directly putting money into it and strengthening our workforce, keeping our state competitive. Higher education is a major pipeline for keeping skilled workers in Ohio, and out-of-state students contribute MILLIONS of dollars to our economy. If we significantly reduce the number of students coming to our state, that is literally taking money out of our pockets.

Additionally, for about three pages in SB1, it discusses breaking contact with our higher education institutions and China. Several years ago, we had 7 THOUSAND Chinese undergraduate students. We have THOUSANDS of Chinese students who pay full tuition to come here. After SB1, why would any working-class Chinese family wish to send their children here? Cutting these students will result in a major loss in tuition revenue and weaken Ohio's global economic connections.

3.) Our universities, notably OSU, are our brand. This brand is recognized globally; when people think about Ohio, they do not think about beaches or mountains, they think about OSU. If we weaken our universities, we will not just weaken our higher education, but also our reputation

as a center for research, innovation, and business development. If OSU and other Ohio universities decline, we will lose our ability to attract talent, investors, and businesses.

In short, SB1 is not only about education, but also about Ohio's future. If you start cutting away grants and cutting away students, you weaken our position as a research and workforce development leader. Ohio's growth depends on universities, and SB1 threatens that foundation.

Please vote no on SB1.

Thank you again for allowing me to provide testimony; I apologize for not being there to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Wyatt

For numbers on OSU research funding: <https://erik.osu.edu/story/ohiostate-research-expenditures-fy23>

For numbers on OSU NIH funding: <https://jamesmurphy.com/2025/02/09/the-impact-of-an-nih-15-indirect-cost-rate/>

For numbers on OSU international students: <https://sem.osu.edu/enrollment-report.pdf>